

# Enabling Legislation: Creation of the High-Speed Internet Strategy Work Group

Kara Durbin

Counsel, Office of Program Research

House of Representatives

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# Overview of Presentation

- Legislative Activities - 2007
  - Senate Bill 5120
  - Budget Proviso: Broadband Disparity Survey
- Legislative Activities - 2008
- Key provisions of ESSB 6438
  - Legislative Findings/Intent
  - Creation of the Work Group
  - Objectives and Deliverables



# Senate Bill 5120 (2007)

- Directed the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) to conduct a survey on the deployment of broadband technologies among households in the state.
- Appropriation: \$160,000.
- Did not pass in 2007.



# Budget Proviso: Broadband Disparity Survey

- Section 149 of the 2007-2009 Operating Budget.
- Appropriation: \$160,000.
- Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) was asked to “identify factors preventing the widespread availability and use of broadband technologies.”
- Final report was released on June 30, 2008.



# Legislative Activities (2008)

- Broadband legislation introduced
  - HB 2521, 2559, and SB 6438
- House Technology, Energy and Communications Committee Work Session on High-speed Internet Access Issues
- Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6438



# ESSB 6438 – Legislative Findings

- Deployment/Adoption of High-speed Internet has provided many benefits to the state.
- Continued progress in this area is vital in order for WA to remain competitive.
- State must encourage partnerships between public, private, non-profit and community-based sectors to grow and develop high-speed internet services for residents and businesses.



# ESSB 6438 - Legislative Intent

- Conduct a needs assessment.
- Use needs assessment to guide future plans.
- Goals:
  - Ensure that every resident in WA can access high-speed internet.
  - Address digital literacy and technology training needs through state support of community technology programs.



# ESSB 6438 – Creation of the High-Speed Internet Strategy Work Group

- Department of Information Services (DIS) convenes the Work Group and invites interested parties from specified groups to participate.
- Mission: Develop a high-speed internet deployment and adoption strategy for the state.



# Work Group Membership

- Economic Development
- Local Community Development
- Local Government
- Community Planning
- Technology Planning
- Education
- Health Care
- Telecommunications Provider
- Technology Companies
- Telecommunications Unions
- Public Utilities
- Public Safety
- Tribal Government



# Work Group Objectives

- Develop geographic information system maps and inventories of public and private high-speed internet infrastructure.
- Address management of proprietary and competitively sensitive data.
- Spur development of high-speed internet resources across the state.
- Track residential and business adoption of high-speed internet, computers, and related information technology.



# Work Group Objectives (Continued)

- Use local technology planning teams to help with internet deployment to disenfranchised or unserved areas.
- Work with Washington State University Extension to establish low-cost programs to improve computer ownership, technology literacy, and high-speed internet access for unserved populations in the state.



# Deliverables

- Complete high-speed internet strategy by December 1, 2008.
- Prepare a report by December 1, 2008 to the Legislature and Governor that includes:
  - Benchmarks and performance measures
  - Legislation needed to implement the strategy
  - Funding options



# Questions?

